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# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

**HMS Management Overview**

September 7, 2016

# Goal of Presentation

- Brief update of recent actions
- Defer issues to be discussed later in meeting:
  - Atlantic bluefin tuna management and Amendment 7
  - Atlantic shark management including dusky shark stock assessment update & Amendment 5b, & proposed rules for 2017 shark specifications & SCS retention limits
  - Draft Amendment 10 HMS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
  - Proposed rule on vessel upgrading
  - Upcoming IBQ inseason transfers proposed rule
  - HMS Recreational Issues
  - International & Domestic Rulemaking & Policy Initiatives

# Rulemaking/Operations

## Since the March 2016 AP meeting:

- Published 6 proposed rules: 2016 SWO specs, archival tags, ICCAT porbeagle, SCS retention limit, Vessel upgrade restrictions, 2017 SHK specs
- Published 5 final rules: ICCAT eBCD, electronic BFT dealer reporting, 2016 SWO specs, archival tags, ICCAT porbeagle
- Published multiple inseason actions & oversaw 17 workshops

## In 2016, so far:

- Issued 38 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 shark research fishery permits
- Registered 250 HMS tournaments
- ~5,750 people receiving Atlantic HMS News

# Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Final Rule

Final rule published April 1 (81 FR 18796); effective May 1

- eBCD system builds on paper-based BCD program
  - Used by HMS International Trade Permit (ITP) holders (to be International Fisheries Trade Permit on Sept 20)
  - Required for all imports, exports, or re-exports of Atlantic bluefin tuna
  - Validated by exporting or re-exporting country
    - Except for tagged fish in CPCs where all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged and meet minimum tagging standards in Rec. 15-10
  - Customer service available at (301) 427-8589 or [nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov)



# Electronic BFT Dealer Reporting Final Rule

- Final rule published June 29 (81 FR 42290); effective July 28
- Changes dealer reporting from handwritten and faxed landings reports to electronic reporting system
- Final rule issued without prior proposed rule because software was no longer supported and ability to monitor quotas was uncertain
- Application uses Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) screens to enter trip information, and provides a new pop-up screen for reporting the additional information required for bluefin tuna purchases
- Customer service: HMS eDealer helpdesk (301) 427-8590 or SAFIS helpdesk (978) 281-9212

# Swordfish 2016 Specifications Final Rule

- Proposed rule published June 7 (81 FR 36511); Final rule published July 26 (81 FR 48720); effective August 25, 2016
- Established adjusted North Atlantic swordfish quota of 3,359.4 mt dw (Rec 13-02)
  - 2,937.6 mt dw baseline - 18.8 mt dw transfer to Mauritania + 440.6 mt dw carryover from 2015
  - Directed category quota = 3,009.4 mt dw; Incidental category = 300 mt dw; Reserve category = 50 mt dw
- Established adjusted South Atlantic swordfish quota of 75.1 mt dw (Rec 13-03)
  - 75.2 mt dw baseline – 75.2 mt dw transfers to other countries\* + 75.1 carryover from 2015
- Modified the regulations to specify that NMFS would not undertake notice & comment rulemaking when specifications simply follow a existing regulatory formula. NMFS would continue to undertake notice & comment rulemaking when adopting new quotas or otherwise altering conservation & management measures

\*transfers to Namibia (37.6 mt dw); Cote d'Ivoire (18.8 mt dw), & Belize (18.8 mt dw)

# Archival Tag Final Rule

Proposed rule published April 14 (81 FR 22044); Final rule published August 19 (81 FR 55376); effective September 19, 2016

- Removes the requirement for researchers using internal or external archival tags to obtain written authorization from NMFS and the requirement for fishermen to report their catches of Atlantic HMS with such tags to NMFS
- Keeps the regulations allowing fishermen to land any Atlantic HMS in which an archival tag has been surgically implanted, provided such persons return the tag to the research entity indicated on the tag or to NMFS



# ICCAT Porbeagle Final Rule

- Proposed rule published June 15 (81 FR 3907); Final rule published August 24 (81 FR 57803); effective September 23, 2016
- Implements ICCAT Recommendation 15-06 that requires fishing vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries when brought alive alongside the vessel
- Porbeagles alive at the time of haulback must be released alive, to the extent practicable, on:
  - Pelagic longline vessels
  - HMS Angling & HMS CHB vessels when SWO, tuna, or BLF are retained
  - Atlantic tunas General category & Atlantic SWO General commercial vessels fishing in a registered HMS tournament when a SWO, tuna, or BLF are retained



# Swordfish General Commercial Inseason Action

- Adjusted Swordfish General Commercial & HMS Charter/Headboat permit (only when on a non-for-hire trip) retention limits

Region	<u>Default</u> Retention Limit per Vessel per Trip	<u>Adjusted</u> Retention Limit per Vessel per Trip	Effective Period (2016)
Northwest Atlantic	3 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – December 31
Gulf of Mexico	3 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – December 31
U.S. Caribbean	2 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – December 31
Florida Swordfish Management Area	0 SWO/Vessel/Trip	0 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – December 31

See 80 FR 81770, December 31, 2015; 81 FR 38966, June 15, 2016

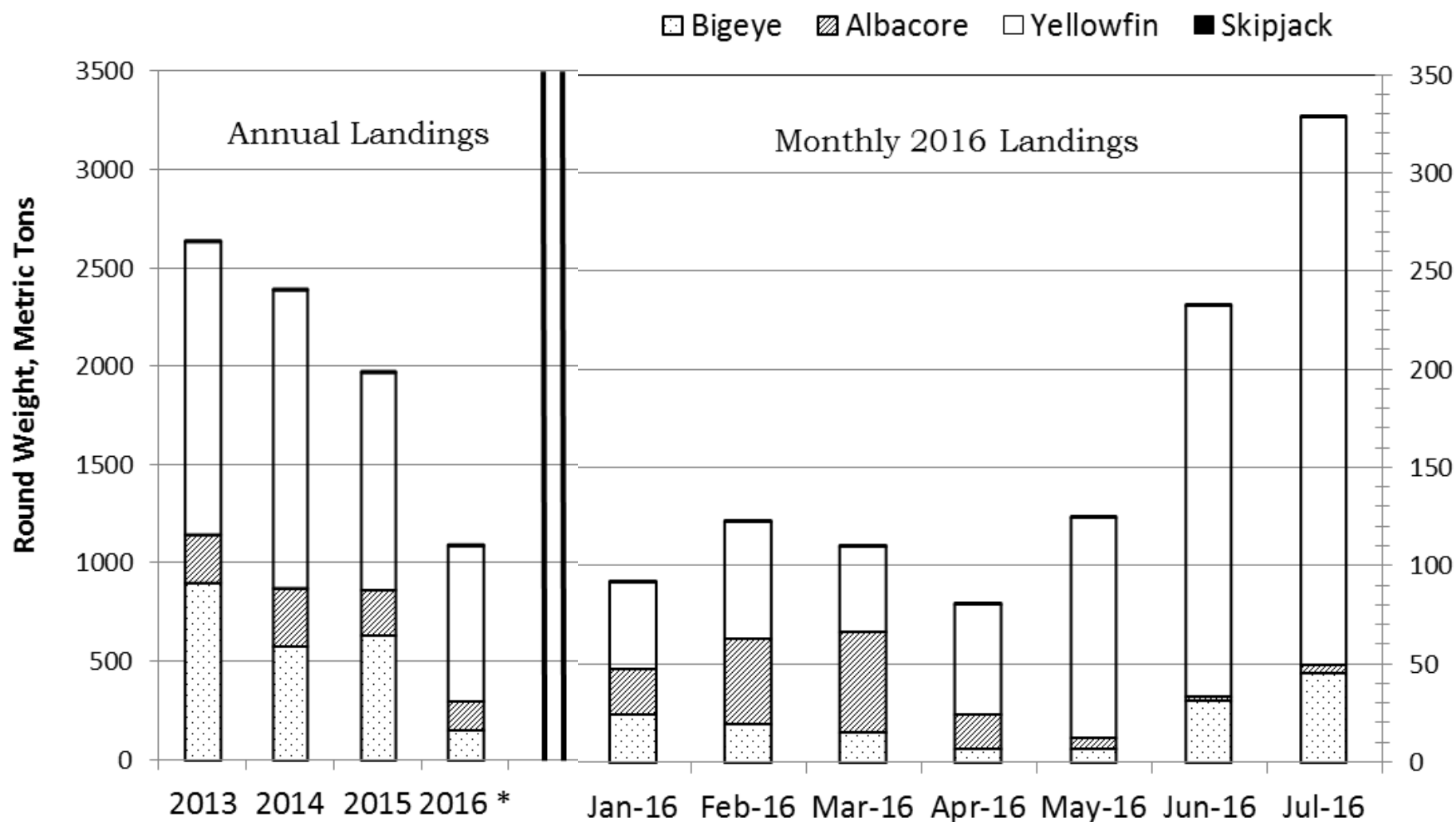


# Shark Inseason Actions

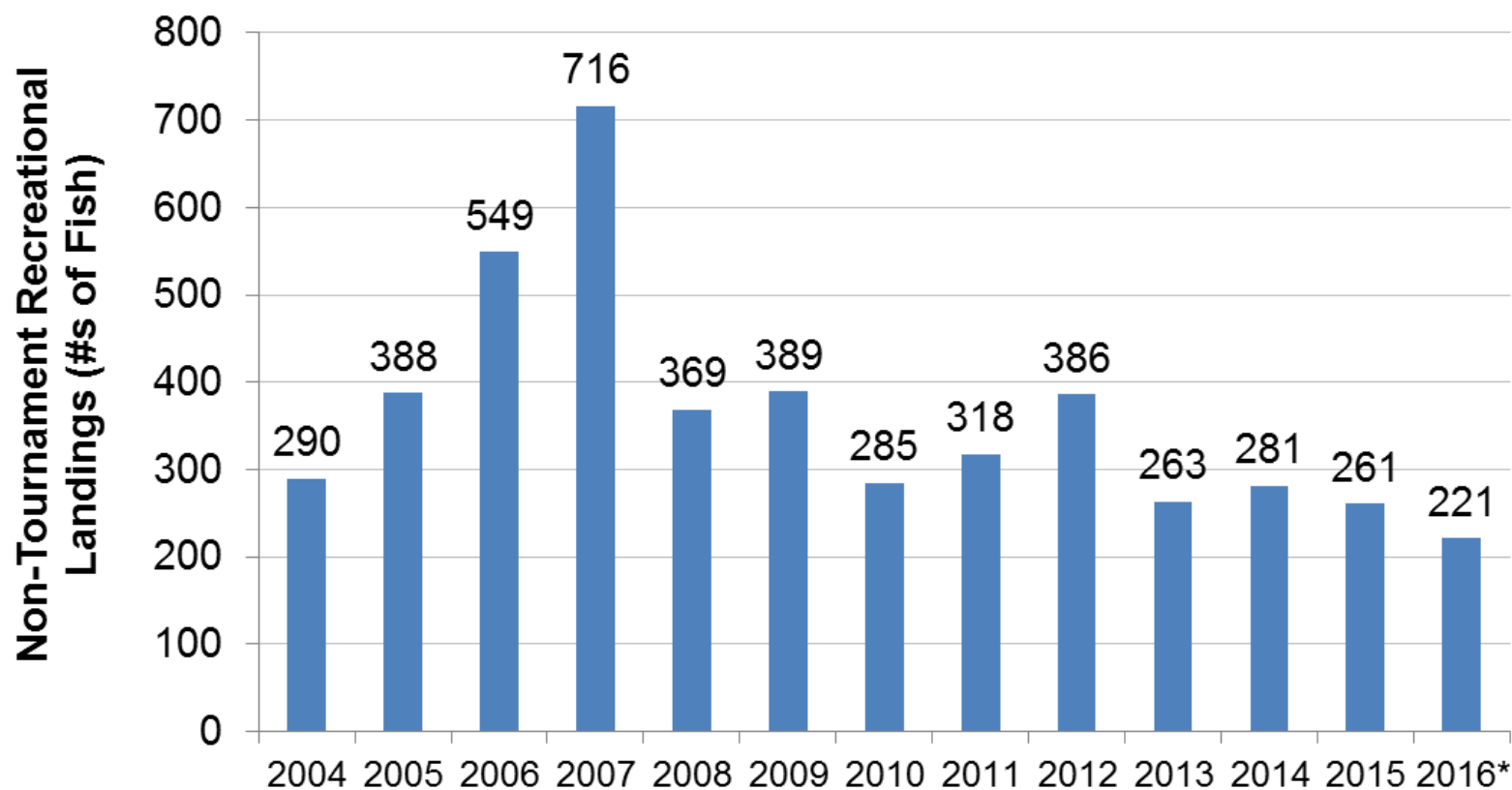
## 2016 Inseason Actions:

- Closed the Gulf of Mexico blacktip, aggregated LCS, and hammerhead shark fisheries on March 12 (81 FR 12602)
- Adjusted Atlantic aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark fisheries retention limit to 3 LCS on April 2 (81 FR 18541)
- Closed the Atlantic non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark fisheries south of 34° N. latitude on May 29 (81 FR 33604)
- Adjusted Atlantic aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark fisheries retention limit to 45 LCS on July 15 (81 FR 44798)

# Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, & Skipjack (BAYS) Tuna Landings



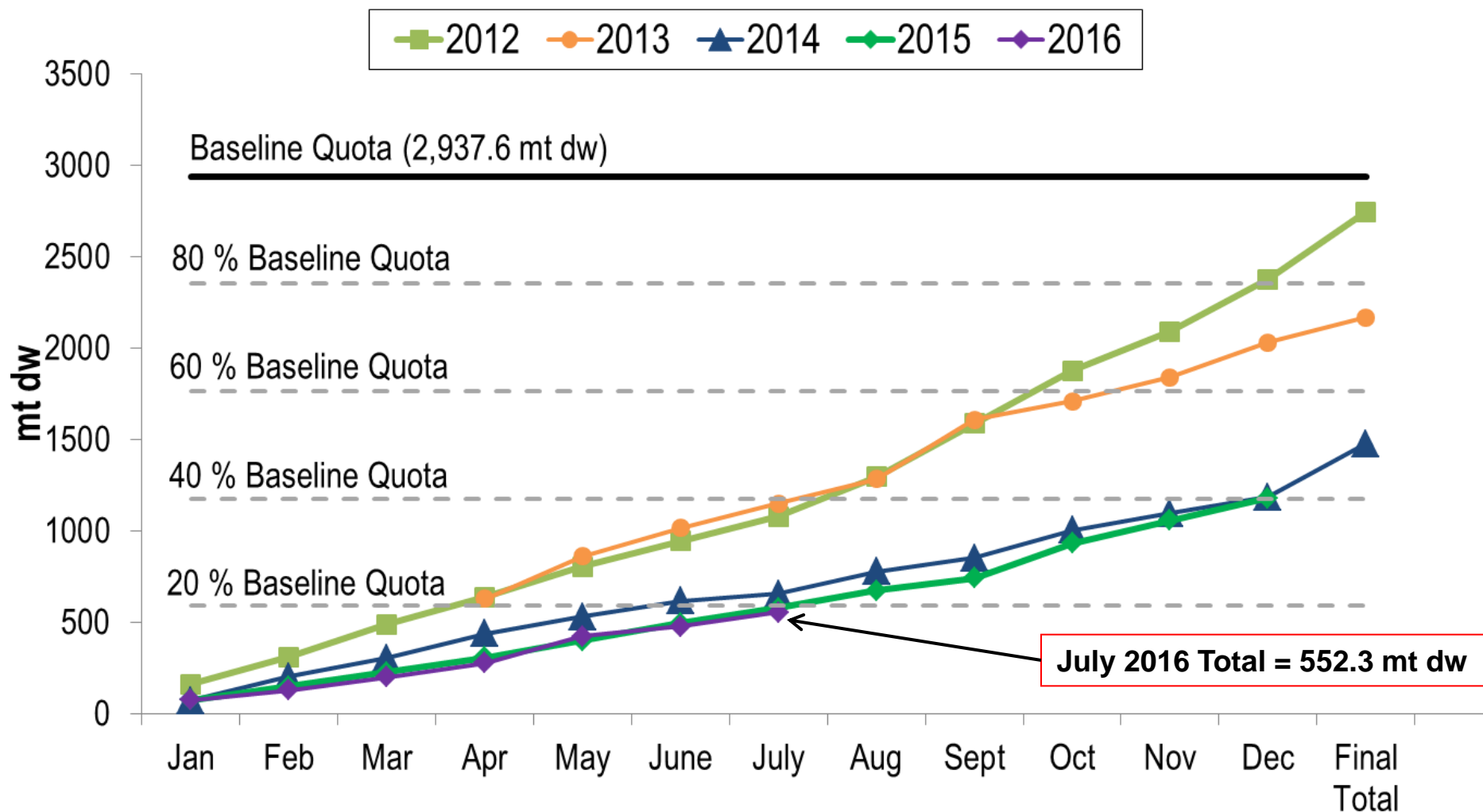
# Recreational Swordfish Landings



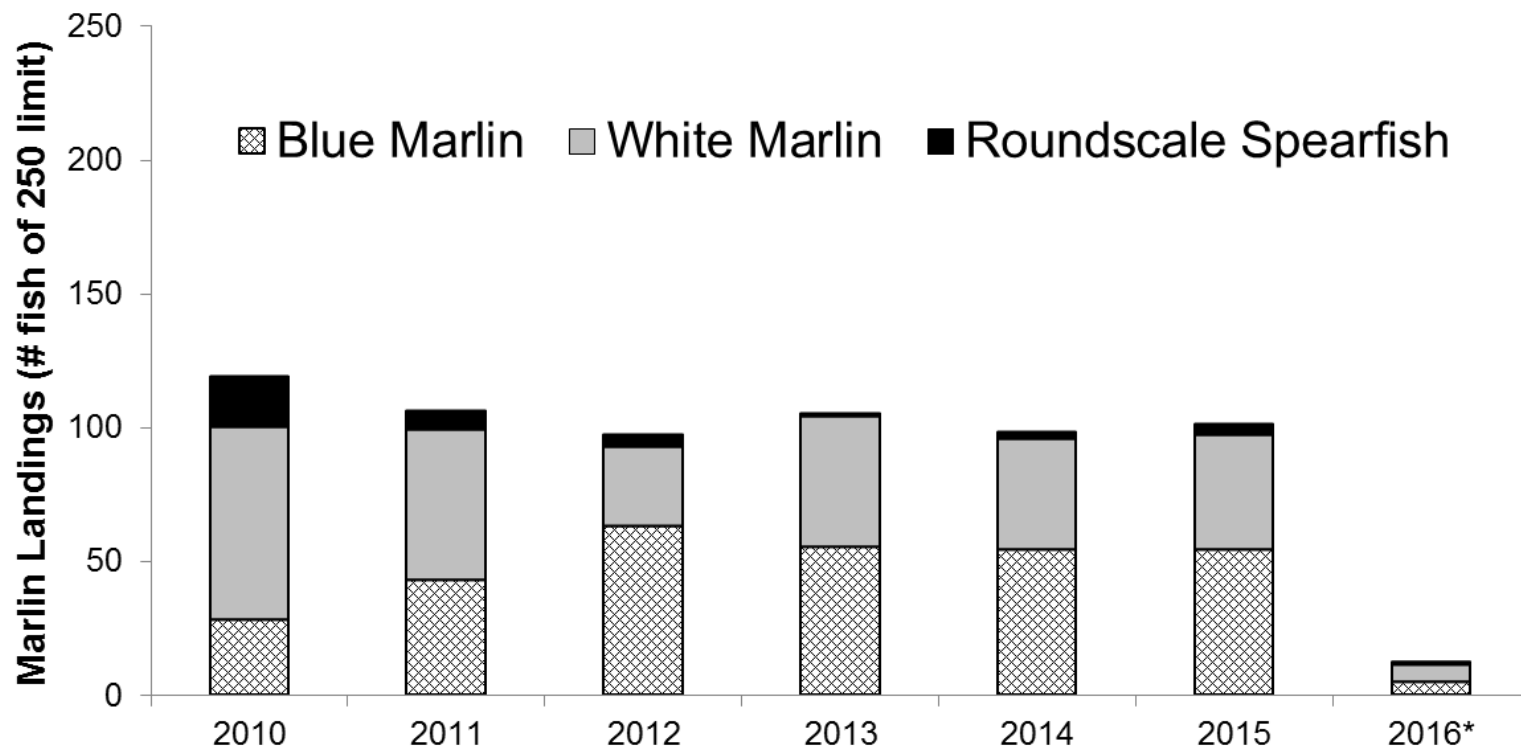
\* January 1 – August 31, 2016



# North Atlantic Swordfish Landings



# Recreational Billfish Landings



Roundscale Spearfish	19	7	4	1	2	4	1
White Marlin	72	56	30	49	42	43	6
Blue Marlin	28	43	63	55	54	54	5
Sailfish	192	173	184	173	118	113	68

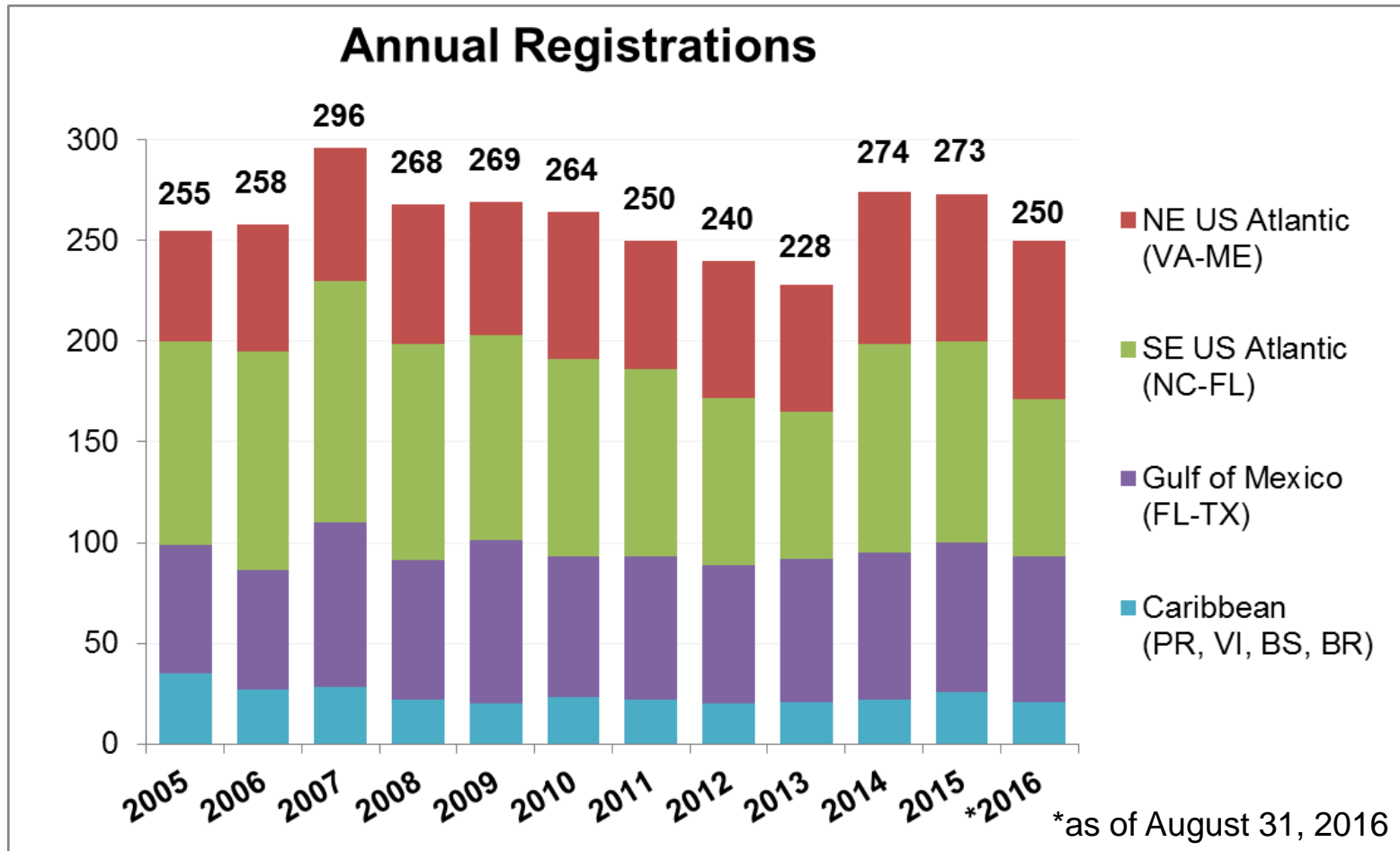
\*Preliminary, January 1 – August 31, 2016

Source: Recreational (non-tournament) Database



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# Tournaments Update



- 2016 Economics Study Underway
- Online tournament registration & reporting underway

# ESA Updates – Biological Opinions

- On August 27, 2014, NMFS published a final rule to list 20 coral species as threatened under the ESA; 7 of these species are distributed in U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean waters
- NMFS reinitiated ESA consultation on these coral species, and the newly listed Western and Central Atlantic DPS of scalloped hammerhead for all HMS fisheries (including pelagic longline fishery for which consultation had already been reinitiated) on October 30, 2014
- Consultation ongoing now for all HMS fisheries



# ESA Updates continued – Shark Petitions

- Common & Bigeye Thresher Sharks
  - Listing Not Warranted (April 1, 2016; 81 FR 18979)
- Smooth Hammerhead Shark
  - Listing Not Warranted (June 28, 2016; 81 FR 41934)
- Porbeagle Shark
  - Listing Not Warranted (August 1, 2016, 81 FR 50463)
- Oceanic Whitetip Shark
  - Positive 90-day finding on a petition to list the species range-wide 1/12/16; Comment period closed 3/14/16
  - Status review underway

# Operations/Other

- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC for sharks
- ICCAT monthly submissions: BFT landings, 20m & BET/YFT vessel lists, *quarterly BET landings starting this year*
- Atlantic HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting system ~active 469 HMS dealers submit all landings data/negative reports weekly; weekly compliance monitoring; monthly shark & swordfish commercial landings reports
- Online Individual Bluefin Quota system has active accounts associated with 223 Atlantic Tuna Longline permits and 74 dealers with tuna permits.



# Proposed Legislation

## **Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2016**

- Would prohibit possession, trade, distribution, sale, etc of shark fins or products containing shark fins
- Would require immediate destruction of shark fins
- Spiny & smooth dogfish & rays are not defined as sharks

## **Access for Sportfishing Act of 2016**

- Would prohibit shark feeding

## **Agency role**

- The Administration has not taken a position on these bills

# Previous AP suggestions

- A7 – review fishery trends, fishing locations, attrition of vessels, number of new entrants - ongoing
  - IBQ – change accountability to quarterly or annual; allow use of Atlantic IBQ in GOM from July to December; provide quota to active participants; revisit allocation in 3-year review, including Purse Seine allocation; allow carryover of IBQ; create reserve pool of IBQ – upcoming IBQ inseason transfer proposed rule, 3-year review
  - EM – send hard drives less frequently (bimonthly?); eliminate pelagic/demersal species composition since EM is in place now - under consideration, 3-year review?
  - Reporting – increase outreach to commercial handgear fleet; check phrasing on website; streamline website - ongoing



# Previous AP suggestions, con't

- SWO – eliminate directed permit vessel upgrade restrictions (proposed rule), increase incidental retention limit (under consideration)
- Pursue research in PLL closed areas – under consideration
- Require weak hooks in Atlantic – under consideration as part of PLL Take Reduction Plan
- BFT – set CHB retention limit at 3 school; set General category retention limit at 5 fish; keep default Harpoon limit - done
- EFH – pursue lemon shark HAPC – proposed in Draft Amendment 10
- SCS retention limits – pursue 8 blacknose/trip – proposed rule
- Caribbean – increase SWO retention limit & allow shark retention with Caribbean Small Boat Permit - under consideration

# Looking Ahead – 2016

## Upcoming Proposed Rule:

- Draft Amendment 5b on dusky sharks; AP meeting during comment period

## Upcoming Dates:

- SCS retention limit measures – comment period ends 9/20
- SEDAR Advisory Panel - nominations due 9/22
- Vessel upgrade restrictions – comment period ends 9/26
- 2017 Shark Specifications – comment period ends 9/28
- Draft EFH Amendment 10 – comment period ends 12/22

## Upcoming Actions/Notices:

- IBQ inseason transfers proposed rule
- HMS Advisory Panel nominations
- Exempted Fishing Permit Notice of Intent
- Shark Research Fishery Call for Applications
- Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research EFP Request

# Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
  - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
  - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- AP Member Role
  - Listen and Engage in Discussions
  - Share with Your Constituents
  - Bring Ideas to and Advise Agency
- Agency Role
  - Ensure compliance with all domestic & int'l requirements
  - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
  - Listen and Engage in Discussions
  - Make Decisions Considering Feedback

# Conclusion/Looking Forward

*In conclusion,*

- We are covering a lot of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

*Looking forward,*

- We value your input & want your input on priorities & potential solutions



# Questions?

Thank you!